


**RAY-LYNN**  
**KANSAS DEPARTMENT**  
**OF COMMERCE**



 **TOPEKA, KS**  
Kansas Health Profession  
Opportunity Program (KHPOP)

## A little help is sometimes all we need.

In 2016, Ray-Lynn was working as a medical aide at a nursing home and was enrolled in nursing school. She struggled financially, finding it hard to pay for childcare. She knew her chosen field of healthcare held opportunity, but she didn't know how she could afford both. She found out about the **Kansas Health Profession Opportunity Program (KHPOP)** through her nursing school peers and decided to apply.

Ray-Lynn pursued nursing but soon realized it was not her passion. She was excited to learn that KHPOP had many opportunities to choose a different career path. After a semester, she switched to dental assistant training. Ray-Lynn's KHPOP career coach encouraged her the whole way through. She was working full time, in school full time, and balancing motherhood.

Ray-Lynn had a second child in September 2017. She was so determined to make it through school that she only took one week off. Without KHPOP supporting her, she wouldn't have been able to finish the program. They paid for her tuition, books, materials, supplies, childcare,

and provided fuel assistance. Ray-Lynn successfully completed dental assistant training and passed the state exam for her dental assistant license. The KHPOP program helped her pay the testing and licensing fees and also provided funding for the required background check.

Ray-Lynn did her clinical rotation at Dr. Robin F. Wood & Associates LLC in Pittsburg, Kansas. Her work impressed them, and they offered her a full-time position upon graduation. Her starting wage was \$12.50 an hour, and she was able to purchase a new car.

Ray-Lynn's career coach keeps up with her and checks in even after she finished the program. Her coach is now even a client at Ray-Lynn's dental office. HPOG helped Ray-Lynn set up for a long career in the healthcare industry, making enough money to support herself and her family.

**"I wouldn't be working here or even be able to afford my bills if it wasn't for the KHPOP grant."**

This success story was self-identified by the grantee and information contained in this document was provided by the grantee.